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9 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 46
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI
OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION
AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 9 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to record our objection to paragraphs concerning Iraq contained in the statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries on 10 September 1992 (S/24566). I wish to make it clear to you that the charges levelled against Iraq in those paragraphs are not founded in fact and are a reiteration of the frequent assertions made by quarters hostile to Iraq in order to justify the continuation of the current embargo against Iraq and deprive its people of their most elementary and basic humanitarian needs, despite the fact that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and cooperated fully with the United Nations teams.

At the same time that the statement refers to what it calls Iraqi threats against the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which have not issued from any official Iraqi quarter, it manages to ignore the real threat that hovers over the region, namely the schemes to divide and occupy in various and sundry ways. The direction adopted in the statement makes it a means for the implementation of the wills of the great Powers, which seek hegemony over the region in order to satisfy their own interests and policies. This is constantly confirmed by events, by Iranian threats and by the crises which the region is currently experiencing.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session under agenda item 46 and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 30
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 8 October 1992 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the ongoing hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners to protest against ill-treatment and the deterioration of their conditions of detention.

According to a press release by the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre of 10 October 1992, as well as reports in The New York Times of 3 October and The Times (London) of 7 October, at least 3,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli central prisons - Jneid, Nablus, Ashkelon, Bir Saba' and Nafha - are continuing an open hunger strike, which began on 27 September.

It was reported that the prisoners began the strike after having exhausted all other measures of negotiations without success. They are demanding an end to the policy of long periods of solitary confinement and other arbitrary individual and collective punishments; the closure of special underground punishment sections where dungeon conditions prevail; a reinstatement of adequate food rations; a halt to overcrowding; access to proper medical treatment; and an end to beatings and tear-gassing in the cells and to demeaning strip searches.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in its annual reports to the General Assembly, as well as through the Chairman's letters, has repeatedly drawn attention to the inhuman conditions of detention of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including beatings and torture during interrogation, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and international human rights

standards. The Committee is seriously concerned at the reported increase during the past year in the harsh and repressive treatment of prisoners, and the further deterioration in their conditions of detention, including reductions in food rations, denial of family visits and the growing use of solitary confinement.

The Committee further wishes to draw attention to the fact that, according to the above-mentioned press release, an estimated 12,500 Palestinians are currently being held in Israeli detention centres and prisons, most of them operated by the army and military police. Up to 1,000 more may be held under short detention orders and not registered in detention centres or police lock-ups.

The Committee deplores that the Israeli authorities have so far refused to address the legitimate grievances of the prisoners, treating them as a security problem, rather than as a human rights issue. The Committee is gravely concerned that support demonstrations have been suppressed with live ammunition and rubber bullets, resulting in at least 90 Palestinians being shot and injured in the Gaza Strip, as reported by The New York Times on 8 October.

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I once again appeal to you as well as to all those concerned, in particular the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention, to take all the necessary measures to ensure that Israel desist forthwith from using illegal methods in treating the Palestinian detainees and respect its international obligations under the Convention and relevant human rights instruments, as well as Security Council resolutions.

I would appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People